

*Branch.* The Meat Grading and Certification Branch.

*Branch Chief.* The Chief of the Branch, or any officer or employee of the Meat Grading and Certification Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his or her stead.

*Department.* The United States Department of Agriculture.

*Deputy Administrator.* The Deputy Administrator of the Livestock and Seed Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service or any officer or employee of the Livestock and Seed Program to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated to act in his or her stead.

*Legal holiday.* Those days designated as legal public holidays in Title 5, United States Code, Section 6103(a).

*Livestock and Seed Program.* The Livestock and Seed Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

*Part.* The program to assess organic certifying agencies in the regulations.

*Person.* Any individual, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, or Government agency.

*Quality Manual.* A manual documenting an organic certifying agency's quality system and associated quality certification procedures used to certify organic producers and handlers of organically produced agricultural commodities in accordance with established specifications or standards.

*Regulations.* The regulations in this part.

### § 37.2 Services.

Organic certifying agencies requesting assessment services under this Part shall conform to the provisions of the regulations and the requirements of International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Guide 65—General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems, Ref. No. ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996, or other internationally recognized guidelines or requirements. The Director of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of ISO/IEC

Guide 65 in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. You may obtain a copy from the American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036. You may inspect a copy at USDA, AMS, LSP, MGCB; STOP 0248, Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0248 or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

(a) Assessment services provided under the regulations shall consist of:

(1) Review of the adequacy of an applicant's quality manual against the requirements of ISO Guide 65; and

(2) Onsite auditing of an applicant's organic certification program to ensure implementation of the provisions of the quality manual and the applicant's compliance with the requirements of ISO Guide 65.

(b) Organic certifying agencies also may request assessment services under other international recognized guidelines or requirements. Developmental assistance in the form of training to explain requirements for quality system assessment is available upon request.

### § 37.3 Availability of service.

Service under these regulations is available to State and private organic certifying agencies.

### § 37.4 How to apply for service.

(a) *Application.* Any organic certifying agency may apply to the Branch Chief, Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch, Livestock and Seed (LS) Program, AMS, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2628-South, Washington, DC, 20090-6456 for assessment service. The application shall be made on Form LS-314, Application for Service. The applicant shall provide the following:

(1) The name and address of the establishment at which service is desired;

(2) The name and post office address of the applicant;

(3) The financial interest of the applicant in the program, except where application is made by an official of a